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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a computer communication network, comprising the steps of:
 - a) producing an advertising digital music file by performing one of either deteriorating or damaging a sound quality of an original music file of a record of a cooperating record corporation; and
 - b) distributing the advertising digital music file through the computer communication network.
2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by inserting noise component such as a voice or a singer or performer in the original music file, thereby damaging the sound quality.
3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by lowering a sampling rate of the digital music file to below that of the original music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by distorting the waveform of the original music ~~using a function such as a "cut, "copy", or etc.~~, thereby damaging the sound quality.
5. (Original) the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by converting a multi-channel sound of the original music to a single-channel sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.

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6. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a computer communication network, comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting an illegally produced digital music file, which is derived from a record of a cooperating record corporation by searching the computer communication network;
- b) editing the collected digital music file to either deteriorate or damage the sound quality of it; and
- 3) distributing the edited digital music file through the computer communication network again.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by inserting noise component such as a voice of a singer or performer in the collected music file, thereby damaging the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by lowering a sampling rate of the collected music file to below that of an original music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by distorting the waveform of the collected music ~~using a function such as a "cut," "copy," or etc., thereby~~ thereby damaging the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by converting a multi-channel sound of the collected music file to a single-channel sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.